

REMARKS

As reported in Office Action dated 11 May 2007: Claims 4-8, 11-30, 32-88 and 96-104 are pending; claims 5-8, 11, and 32-88 are withdrawn from consideration; claims 4, 12-30 are allowable; and claims 96-104 stand rejected.

Claims 96 – 104 are hereby canceled without prejudice solely to advance examination of the present application to allowance. Applicants reserve the right to prosecute the original subject matter in a later-filed continuation application, which properly claims the benefit of this application.

Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims in light of the foregoing amendments, and following remarks, are respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 USC §103(a)

In the Office Action mailed on 11 May 2007, rejection of claims 96-104 under 35 USC §103(a) was maintained as being unpatentable over Luger et. al., Immunobiology, 1986, vol. 172, pp. 346-356 in view of Schmidt et. al., (EP0218531) and Berg (US Patent 5622701). For reasons stated previously, including in the paper filed on November 9, 2008, Applicants respectfully disagree and traverse the rejection.

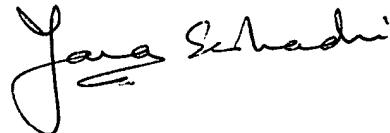
Notwithstanding Applicants' traverse, and without in any way acquiescing to the reasons for the present rejection, but for purposes of advancing examination of the present application to allowance, Applicants have cancelled claims 96-104 thereby rendering the rejection of claims 96-104 under 35 USC §103(a) moot. Applicants reserve the right to prosecute excluded subject matter in a later-filed continuation application, which properly claims the benefit of this application.

In view of the foregoing amendments, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 96-104 under 35 USC §103(a).

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, Applicants believe that all objections and rejections set forth in the Office Action of 11 May 2007 have been obviated or overcome, and consequently the application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration, withdrawal, and removal of the rejections, and allowance of the pending claims are, therefore, respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Tara Seshadri, Ph.D.
Registration No. 48,591
Attorney for Applicants
Abbott Bioresearch Center
100 Research Drive
Worcester, MA 01605